

**Matthews Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resource Advisory Committee
Wednesday, February 10, 2021 Meeting Minutes
6:35pm, Zoom Meeting**

Committee Members Present: Howard Labiner, Ryan Maclatchie, Sandi Lee, John Gatlin, Tara Van Gerderen
Ryan Maclatchie, Scott Rossmeisl, Susan Chambers, Debbie Chopas

Absent: Harvey Boyd

Staff Members Present: Corey King, Lee Anne Moore, Michelle Santucci

- **Call to Order:**
 - Meeting called to order at 6:30pm
- **Roll Call:** Members of the Public - Mark Tofano, Jim Taylor, Doug Rose, Larry Stawicki, Lee Myers
- **Public Comment** -There has been 2 sessions of meetings and written comments regarding the re-naming of Stumptown park. Public Comment is open to anyone who has not already talked about or commented on this subject. – No additional public Comment
- **Division Reports**
 - **Remote Learning @ Crews-** All Feed back regarding the remote learning has been positive. Most students have been referred to Crews by other parents or teachers and school counselors. As long as there is a need for the program it will be available. If the number of students drop to just one or two then obviously the need for the program will be reevaluated. Is getting lunch a problem for children that might be on free or reduced lunch? – Parents are able to pick up lunches at the school usually a week at a time and then they can that days lunch with them to have at Crews. Crews provides snacks to the children. Are there children on scholarships? – YES, **Elevation Church** has so far provided around \$15,000 in scholarships so children can attend the remote learning at Crews!
 - **Community Center Covid Shut Down** – Community Center and the Art Center has been shut down since January 15th, due to the Mecklenburg County Health Directive. The suspension of in person classes and activities is right now through February 28th with in person scheduled to resume on March 1st unless we hear otherwise from the Town Board.
 - **Love Matthews Photo Contest** – LeeAnne needs Judges from the Advisory Committee for the Love Matthews Photo Contest. Susan, Tara and Debbie Volunteer to be judges and will connect with LeeAnne.
- **Director Reports**

- **Progress on the Dog Park** – Public Works doing most of the work to get the dog park ready in order to stay in budget. It should be complete by spring 2021. LeeAnne is working on private partnerships for equipment, benches etc. for the dog park.
- **Riverbanks Drive Greenway Access** – HOA and residents have asked about having a connector to the greenway in their community. Corey and Scott will be looking into if this is something that can happen and the cost of the project.
- **Automatic Gate at SLP** – We have received a Grant to cover 1/3 of the cost of an automatic gate for Squirrel Lake Park. Right now, Matthews Police Department are responsible for opening and closing all of the parks. And of course, if there is important police business opening the gates have to take a back seat to that. This will make it more reliable for everyone to have the gates open at the same time every morning and free up important time for the Police Department.
- **Old Business**
 - **Re-naming of Stumptown Park-**
3 options
 - 1. Re-name the park Stumptown Veterans Memorial Park**
 - 2. Keep the name the same**
 - 3. Create a designated Veterans area in the park with signage recognizing the area as the Veterans Memorial area.**
- **Corey** – The 3rd option to delineate the Veterans area in Stumptown park: Options could include pillars at the perimeter with signage recognizing the Veteran's memorial area, some type of sitting wall identifying the area, separating the area from the rest of the park, but still allowing the entire park to continue use for programming as it does today. 155 comments were collected from citizens. 73% (113) supported renaming the park; 26% (40) supported the park name remaining Stumptown; (1% were ambiguous)

Doug, Chair of Matthews Veterans Advisory Committee – the Veterans Advisory Committee met last week and thought the best solution would be to go with the third option. Making a designated area within Stumptown park – almost like having a pocket park within Stumptown park. Doug would like to meet with the Rotary Club and the American Legion and come up with drawings and ideas for the area to submit to this advisory committee to look at and give input on. **Larry Stawicki**, also with the Matthews Veterans Advisory Committee agrees with Doug said.

Howie Labiner- we will go around to all Committee members to tell what option they are for.

Ryan Maclatchie – Option 3. Compromise. Want to keep the history of the name

Tara Van Gerderen – Option 3 Compromise. Likes the name Veterans Memorial Garden better than Veterans Memorial Park but wants to make sure the area has a garden to reflect the name.

Susan Chambers – Option 3. However, wants the Advisory Committee to have a say on the design and any structure that is going to be added since the Advisory Committee did not have a say on the design that was just installed in the park.

Sandi Lee – Option 3. However we need to keep in mind that when we do eventually enlarge the park we don't want to put something in now that will just have to be torn down or changed later.

Corey addresses this issue by saying since it is in the far corner of the park that area would remain the

same when the park eventually gets enlarged since the park can not be enlarged behind that area due to the retail space that is there. Sandi also wants what ever is going to be done to have to go through the Advisory Committee also.

John Gatlin – Real preference would be to have it at a future park. Second best option would be the 3rd option, the Compromise.

Debbie Chupas – Option 3 The veterans should be honored so option 3 is a good compromise.

Howie Labiner – In favor of Option 3 . The veterans deserve to be recognized for their service and the name of the park should remain the same to preserve history and because it is the central park used for events. Wants to add sub signage on the signs and on the other signs around town and on the website and on print about the parks.

Doug agrees that any plans or designs that they come up with would go through the Park and Rec Advisory Committee and hopes to have something by next week to email Howie to get the ball rolling on ideas for the next meeting on March 10th.

Motion made, and 2nd, to maintain the park name as Stumptown Park, and work with the Matthews Veterans Advisory Committee to come up with a way to designate the area within Stumptown Park – Option 3.

- **New Business**

The Advisory Committee needs a new vice Chairman. Susan Chambers volunteered to take that position. Sandi Lee put a motion to have Susan Chambers as the new Vice Chairman. All advisory members vote to elect Susan Chambers as the new Vice Chairman of the Parks and Rec Advisory Committee.

- Meeting adjourned at 8:00PM